

# AMIAA NEWS

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1846 - 2006 թ.

## Do it With Love

**Andrew Torigian**



### AMAA NEWS

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#### COVER PICTURE

All Armenian Evangelical Conference at the  
AMAA Central Headquarters in Yerevan, Armenia,  
on the occasion of the 160th Anniversary  
of the Armenian Evangelical Church.

***“If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.” (I Corinthians 13:1-3).***

Love is the most important attribute to God. I’m talking about *real* love – the God-kind of love, as defined in I Corinthians 13:4-7: **“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes in all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”** It is an unselfish, sacrificial love.

Think about how much can be accomplished for His Kingdom with love like that. Of course our talents and gifts play an important role, but unless they are *saturated* with love, they are useless to our Lord. What is important to our Lord is how we employ our gifts and talents.

For us mortals, life is the story of recognizing and utilizing the gifts we have received. It is good, and an important first step, to recognize and use our talents. But if we do it for other than love, it is meaningless. It is not enough to develop ourselves simply for ourselves. We must learn to live for others. We must realize that the highest and best use of what God has given us is to give it back to Him in the service of love, impacting the lives of others.

Now is the time to take a look at our talents and gifts as the AMAA looks forward to its fund raising activities (which is in the planning stage and will be underway shortly). This is an ambitious undertaking God has called us to, which will take an unselfish and sacrificial commitment to accomplish. In order to move forward, to meet the many needs – spiritually and physically – we must be prepared to give. To give of ourselves – our talents and gifts, expressing love to a needy world.

Let us consider whether or not our talents and gifts are in the service of love. If they are, let us be sure we keep them there. If they are not, let’s put them in the service of love. □



# Armenian Evangelical Church Celebrates 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary In Yerevan, Armenia

**Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian**

From September 13 to 26, 2006, more than 200 clergy and lay representatives from 15 countries joined hundreds of their fellow Armenian Evangelicals in motherland Armenia to celebrate the 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Armenian Evangelical Church. The Evangelical Church of Armenia, under the auspices of the Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC), hosted the 14-day multi-faceted celebrations.

The celebrations included the following:

1. A press conference to the Armenian media (the press, radio and television) was held at the newly purchased AMAA Armenia Headquarters (the former US Embassy in Yerevan, Armenia) at 18 Marshall Baghramian Blvd., Yerevan, on Wednesday, September 13, 2006. A delegation of six ministers represented the Armenian Evangelicals.
2. A book festival (shnorahantes), in honor of AEWC's Executive Director Dr. Vahan Tootikian's bilingual book, *The Benefits and Contributions of the Armenian Evangelical Church to the Armenian Nation*, was sponsored by the Writers' Union of Armenia, on Thursday, September 14, at the headquarters of the Writers' Union in Yerevan.
3. A delegation of 15 lay and clergy representatives paid an official visit to Mr. Rob-

ert Kocharian, president of the Republic of Armenia, on Thursday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>. The visit lasted for about 40 minutes in a friendly and cordial atmosphere, during which the president commended the Armenian Evangelical Church and the AMAA for their multi-dimensional services to the Armenian Republic and the Armenian nation in religious, educational, cultural and humanitarian realms, and congratulated the delegation on the 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their church.

4. One of the highlights of the 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration was the All-Armenian Evangelical Conference, which was held from Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>. Two hundred delegates and some guests attended the conference whose main theme was "Future Directions of the Armenian Evangelical Church." The moderator of the Conference was Rev. Tootikian. The conference consisted of the following fourteen lay and clergy lecturers presenting seven sessions and lectures:

1. Proclamation of the Word and Armenian Evangelical Worship, by *Rev. Yessayi Sarmazian* and *Rev. Serop Megerditchian*
2. Youth and Christian Education in the Armenian Evang'l Church, by *Mr. Hrayr Jebajian* and *Mr. Harout Nercessian*
3. Bible-centered and Christ-like Lifestyle in the Armenian Evangelical Church, by



*AMAA President, Dr. Steven H. Aharonian (above) and Executive Director Andy Torigian (below) addressing the All-Armenian Evangelical Conference.*



*Visit with President Robert Kocharian.*

*Rev. Krikor Youmoushakian and Rev. Gilbert Leonian*

4. Armenian Evangelical Identity: Preservation and Perpetuation of Our Heritage, by *Rev. Barkev Darakjian* and *Rev. Hendrik Shanazarian*. In Rev. Darakjian's absence, Mrs. Sona Khanjian read his paper.

5. Future Leadership of the Armenian Evangelical Church, by *Mr. Hagop Loussararian* and *Mr. Fred Simonian*

6. The Witness and Service of the Armenian Evangelical Church: Distinguishing Evangelism from Proselytism, by *Dr. Hrair Steven Aharonian* and *Badveli Dikran Youmshakian*

7. Unity in the Armenian Evangelical Church and Ecumenical Relationships, by *Rev. Dr. Rene Leonian* and *Dr. Kegham Tashjian*

AEWC held its biennial meeting on September 14 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, and on September 16 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., at the AMAA Armenia Headquarters in Yerevan. All members of the Council were in attendance. Reports by the President, the Executive Director, and the Treasurer were received with thanks. Following a careful assessment of the current realities of the Armenian Evangelical Church, as well as the issues facing the Armenian Republic and the State of Nagorno Karabagh, AEWG resolved the following:

a. In view of the fact that the national security of Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh are priorities, AEWG pledges to continue its support to strengthen the two states economically, morally, and spiritually.

b. To seek ways and means to reinvigorate Armenia's economy; to help develop especially the border regions; to help improve and

modernize the village infrastructure; and help the population resolve its social needs.

c. To express its concern to the proper authorities about the unemployment crisis and the exodus of people from Armenia due to the economic condition.

d. To extend its hearty congratulations to both the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Nagorno Karabagh on their 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence.

e. AEWG also praised the efforts of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East in meeting the immediate needs of hundreds of Lebanese refugees displaced or victimized by the recent war in Lebanon. AEWG also pledged to continue its evangelistic work in Europe, under the supervision of the Armenian Evangelical Fellowship of Europe.

f. To publish a bilingual book on the 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Armenian Evang'l Church.

g. To adopt some amendments to AEWG constitution and bylaws.

h. To evaluate the 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities.

i. To express the Council's heartfelt appreciation to the host Union, Evangelical Church of Armenia.

j. It was further resolved to express its grateful thanks to the AMAA and Stephen Philibosian Foundation for their generous financial support of the Conference.

k. Elections of the officers for the term 2007-2008 were held, which resulted in the



*The Biennial Meeting of the AEWG.*

following: Rev. Ron Tovmassian, President; Rev. Joel Mikaelian, Vice-President; Rev. Haroutune Selimian, Secretary; Mr. Albert Momjian, Treasurer; Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Executive Director. The advisors are: Rev. Joseph Matossian, Rev. Hamlet Kureghian, Rev. Rene Leonian, Rev. Megherditch Karagoesian, Rev. Gilbert Leonian, Dr. Steven Hrair Aharonian, Mr. Andy Torigian, and Mrs. Joyce Philibosian Stein.

6. A musical concert, in participation with select members of the national philharmonic and musical ensembles, was sponsored by the host Union, on Thursday evening, September 14<sup>th</sup>, at Aram Khachadourian Musical Hall. Over one thousand people were in attendance. The first lady of the Republic, Mrs. Bella Kocharian, with her presence and entourage, graced the event.

7. The opening of an Armenian Evangelical Historical Exhibition, on the 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, took place on September 15, 2006, on

*(Cont't on the following page)*



*The Ordination Ceremony.*



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# Homeland Welcomes the AMAA\*

**Noubar Dorian**

**A**s the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) gets ready for a grand celebration of the establishment of the Armenian Evangelical Church 160 years ago, it is well to reflect on how her members were able to transform the fire of rage, scorn, and ugly disdain towards them to abundant respect, fraternal love, plaudits, and the praise they rightly enjoy presently.

Fate did not smile on them but their deeds and accomplishments did!

What prompts the writing of this article is the most significant and history-making event when Andy Torigian, the Executive Director of the AMAA, and one of the most respected and admired leaders within the Armenian world, signed the agreement to acquire the former US Embassy in Yerevan, which will be converted to the AMAA central headquarters for all of Armenia, Karabagh, Georgia, and Russia. AMAA now proudly joins the major Armenian organizations with headquarters in Armenia, to better serve its longstanding Christian commitment to help the poor, feed the hungry, and help educate the needy.

What a significant plan AMAA had embraced! To have a headquarters located

right in the heart of Yerevan and have, under one roof, an Evangelical church, a theological academy, Nerses and Arpine Aynilian Medical Center, and all administrative activities, including orphan and needy child support, milk program and other future activities. All these happily place AMAA as a major player in all aspects of homeland recovery since her independence. This undertaking is a major and costly project, but with a strong leadership of AMAA and the passionate dedication of its members, this undertaking will not fail.

The one word that best defines AMAA is “virtue.” That is why it is not hard to believe that the Armenian Evangelical Church and her AMAA have survived so many years, and will continue to survive and spread hope, help and health.

This God-ordained plan comes once again to define “virtue” at its best: precious, enviable, and true.

Respect, deference, privilege and praise are always reserved for those who are happily and actively involved in doing good. With purity of love, abject humility and unyielding and passionate fidelity to follow

Christian values, Evangelical Armenians will never say “mission accomplished” but rather seek other honorable missions to undertake. Even the most jaded among us will have to admit the manifold successes AMAA has recorded, as it continues its efforts to free as many among us as possible from the bondage of ignorance, poverty and hopelessness.

The purchase of one acre of ARMENIAN LAND with a most prestigious building on it, will hopefully silence forever the few Armenians among us who still foolishly doubt or question the “Armenianness” of the Evangelicals. They have given, really given their deepest, most heartfelt and everlasting commitment to the homeland and to all Christian values since their founding in 1846.

There is no need to remind anyone that we all spring from the same Armenian roots. When the dawn breaks in Armenia, it will heartily bid WELCOME, AMAA.

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*\*This article written by Noubar Dorian of Fort Lee, NJ was featured in the September 16, 2006 issue of the Armenian Reporter International and reprinted with his permission.*

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the first floor of the municipality building of Yerevan. The Exhibition tried to relate the 160-year history, milestones, and contributions of the Armenian Evangelical movement through hundreds of pictures, books, magazines and audio-visual material.

8. An inspirational sacred concert was presented by the Armenian Evangelical “Avedis” Choral group, on Friday evening September 15, at the Armenian Evangelical Center.

9. On Saturday evening, September 16, in Hagop Baronian Theater, a play from the life of Armenian national hero Soghomon Tehlirian entitled “Endless Return” took place under the direction of Berj Zeytountzian. More than 600 people were in attendance.

10. A united Worship Service, attended by the two hundred delegates of the All-Armenian Evangelical Conference, as well as hun-

dreds of members representing the forty Armenian Evangelical churches of Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh, was held on Sunday, September 17 in the Opera House. During the service four licensed preachers were ordained in Christian ministry: Badvelis Armen Mikaelian, Garoush Antonian, Albert Paitian and Gagik Hovhanissian. It was a moving scene to witness as thirty-one Armenian Evangelical ministers laid their hands over the heads of the four candidates who knelt down to receive Christian ordination.

11. The 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the Armenian Evangelical Church was held in the large auditorium of the American University of Armenia, on Sunday, September 17. More than one thousand people attended. There were many religious and civic dignitaries including the personal representatives of President Robert Kocharian and

President Arkadi Ghoukassian.

12. From September 18 to 25, many of the Diaspora’s delegates visited the Armenian Evangelical centers in Armenia and Karabagh, while a fifteen-member delegation of AEWEC attended the Third Armenian Diaspora Conference on September 18 and 19, at Garen Demirjian Sport Complex. Rev. Joel Mikaelian spoke on behalf of the Council.

The 160th Anniversary celebrations of the Armenian Evangelical Church were historic, and memorable, educational and inspirational days for those who attended. This milestone celebration in our motherland was a dream come true. We hope and pray that this anniversary will challenge all Armenian Evangelicals to renewed dedication to continue with much greater zeal to serve God, the Armenian nation, and humankind. □

## Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East

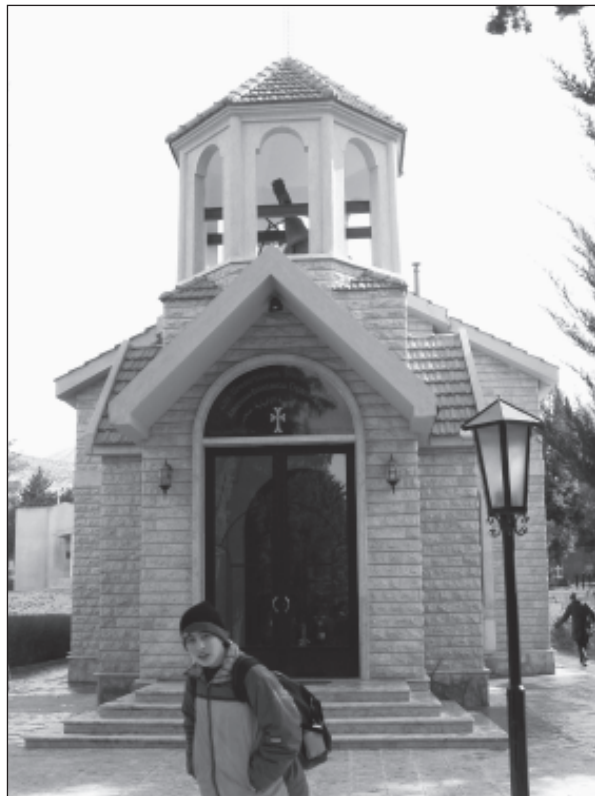
**T**he Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE) is an autonomous body of churches comprising 27 congregations throughout Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, Greece, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Cyprus and Australia. Beginning in the second decade of the 19th century as an indigenous reform movement within the Armenian Apostolic Church, Armenian Evangelicals developed into an independent community in 1846 in Istanbul to become known as the Armenian Evangelical Church and in subsequent decades registered a membership of 60,000 throughout the Ottoman Empire. After the First World War, when the Armenian population was decimated and the remnant deported from its historic homeland in what is now Turkey, the UAECNE was reorganized in Syria and Lebanon. The UAECNE is composed of autonomous congregations. Its organizational pattern is a form of modified congregationalism. The annual convention of the UAECNE is the highest authority, presided by Rev. Megerdich Karageozian. The central committee of 12 members, elected at the convention, acts as an administrative body supervising and coordinating the activities of the member churches and church related institutions.

From its inception, UAECNE has stressed the importance of education. It now oversees 13 schools, 5 high schools, Haigazian University (in partnership with AMAA) and 3 conference centers in Syria, Lebanon, and Iran. Together with the Arabic-speaking Evangelical churches, the UAECNE owns and operates the Near East School of Theology in Beirut (the latter is also supported by foreign missionary agencies). With the Armenian Apostolic Catholicosate and Armenian Catholic Patriarchate it operates homes for the elderly in Aleppo and Beirut, the Arevig Center for retarded children in Aleppo, Syria and a sanatorium in Lebanon. UAECNE also operates a Social Service Center in one of the most poverty stricken suburb of Bourdj Hammoud.

It has developed ecumenical ties with several churches and fraternal relations with the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America, the Armenian Evangelical Union of France and the Armenian Evangelical Union of Armenia. In spite of grave problems of emigrations and persecution, the UAECNE continues to function with a growing awareness of its mission in its territories.

Recently, the UAECNE has been instrumental in assisting refugees of the Israeli attacks on Lebanon. The UAECNE opened schools to give them temporary shelter and provide them with food and other necessities.

AMAA is proud to be a substantial financial supporter of UAECNE, a work of God reflecting the love of Christ in the Middle East. □



*The newly renovated building of Armenian Evangelical Church of Anjar.*



*Worship Service at Emmanuel Armenian Evangelical Church - Nor Amanos, Dora, Lebanon.*



## Children in Vanatzor Delighted with their New Playground

The official opening ceremony of the newly constructed Playground and Recreation center of the Evangelical Church of Armenia in Vatazor, was held on August 6, 2006. Pastors and Christian Education leaders from various Evangelical Churches of Armenia were present.

The Church's Ani Fold Dance Ensemble as well as the Folk Music Orchestra participated in the festivities with dances and songs. The children were praising the Lord enthusiastically.

During the following weeks the church held its Daily Vacation Bible Schools (DVBS) for different age groups. Hundreds of children attended the DVBS programs and felt the love and the blessings of God. The theme of this summer's DVBS was "God Is Love." Each child received a T-Shirt which were prepared and donated by the Sunday School of their sister Church - the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ.

The Missions Committee of the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ had organized a special concert with International artist and composer Daniel Decker in March 2006 to raise the necessary funds to construct the Playground and the Recreation Center of the Vanatzor Church. Daniel Decker, who was visiting Armenia in August, paid a special visit to the Vanatzor church to see the center first hand. Mr. Decker toured the church and expressed his delight to be part of the realization of this facility. Mr. Decker also participated in the Church Service and offered a few songs of praise. □



*The opening Ceremony of the Vanatzor Recreation Center and Playground (above). Daniel Decker offering his songs of praise during the worship service (right).*



## A Cheerful Vendor

"God loves a cheerful giver" and God certainly loves a cheerful vendor. Margaret Gabuchian, a 16 year old student from Pasadena, CA, spent her summer vacation selling lemonade and cookies to support the AMAA's Orphan & Child Care Fund. She is an 11th grader at the Polytechnic School in Pasadena, which is a private school for gifted and talented children. Margaret could have taken any other job to make money for herself. Instead, she invested her talents to support her little brothers and sisters in Armenia. Margaret is a cheerful vendor and a cheerful giver. Thank you, Margaret!

## AMAA Awards Scholarships to Needy and Deserving Students

"I just wanted to let you know that I have received the response to my AMAA Scholarship application and now I am the proud recipient of an AMAA Scholarship," writes one applicant in her thank you note to the AMAA. "Thank you so much ... it means a lot to me to know that there are people who are interested in helping struggling students like myself."

As the rising cost of education in the United States becomes a profound concern, many undergraduate students who desire to secure a better future, rely on scholarship aid. The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), sharing this same concern, established its scholarship program to help needy and promising undergraduate students. Over the past 35 years of its existence, this scholarship program has helped thousands of college and university students. So far AMAA has provided three million dollars in direct scholarship aid.

The Chairman of the AMAA Scholarship Committee, Mr. Robert Hekemian, Jr., reported the awarding of \$110,000 in direct scholarship grants to college and university students for the 2006-07 academic year. This year 72 students applied and, upon verification of need and academic qualifications, 65 students were awarded scholarships. In addition, \$10,000 was awarded to university students in Armenia and \$300,000 has been provided to various institutions of higher learning, and charitable organizations for distribution. These institutions include Haigazian University of Beirut, in Lebanon and California State University in Fresno.

The Scholarship Committee, in cooperation with the AMAA Publications Committee, this year evaluated the essays submitted by the students with their applications and chose the best essays. Additional grants from the James Jameson Essay Contest Fund were awarded to the following students: Aram Levon Shemmasian, Charles Kaladjian, Karine Manukian, Jessica Vitale and Gregory Chavoor. Their essays were selected as the best five.

The scholarships, which were granted this year, were awarded from various AMAA endowment funds established for this purpose. Two of these Funds, Hekemian Family Trust and the Stephen Philibosian Fund are the primary contributors. Other AMAA funds whose income provided scholarships for this year's recipients are: John & Sona Abajian, John and Mary Abrahamian, Rev. Hovhannes Agnerian, Haigazoun & Angel Andonian, Dr. Robert Nerses Armen, Aynilian Family, Vahan and Grace Azadian, Rev. Antranig Bedikian, Tavit & Sirvart Bogosian, Rev. Dr. Giragos and Yeprouhie Chopourian, Giragos M. & Helen T. Churukian, Arthur Dadian, Drs. Nazareth & Ani Darakjian, Dr. Haig Robert Darpinian and Berjoughie Timourian, Hagop & Esther Dohanian Family, Armine Ejdaharian/Bilezikjian, Dr. Meguerditch Ejdaharian, Rev. S.K. & G.T. Emurian, Ani Etoyan, Charles Mesrob Garabedian, Flora & Diane Galoostian, Leon & Matilda Giridlian, Louise Googooian, Anne (Googooian) Halford, Khacher and Puzant Guzelimian, Angele Bedrossian Hancock, Martin Hatch Jr., Dr. Michael S. Hovenanian, Peter and Sara Hovenanian, Paul & Arousiag Iskiyan,

Martha D. Jedidian, George & Elizabeth Jerjisian, Karekin Kabouljian, Leo Kaljian, Ohannes & Araxie Karamanoukian, Alice Odian Kasparian, Kevork H. and Sirvart Kassouny Kavouksorian, John G. Kazanjian, Jeffrey Kerbeykian, Moses Keshishian & Victoria Hadidian, Dr. John Keuhnelian, Lucy Kezlarian/Philipian, Rev. & Mrs. Dikran & Yester Koundakjian & Haroutune & Salihe Berejiklian, Araxie Kouyoumdjian Poladian, Hrant, Dolores and Rosanne Krikorian, Serge and Ann Krikorian, Prof. Lootfi Levonian, Yervant & Virginia Levonian, Samuel & Victoria Magzanian, Rahel & Osanna Makanian, Edward & Helen Mardigian, Albert, Henry & James Mouradian, Leon Mouradian, Murad & Yevkin Muradian, Raymond & Marie Nahigian, Nazareth, Artin & Yester Nazarian Memorial Fund, George & Alice Philibosian, Altoon & Sarah Saprichian, Dickran & Flora Sarkisian, Krikor & Anna Sermabeikian, Berjouhi Sherene, Diran Simpadian, Edward & Hovnan Tashian, Telfeyan Evangelical Fund, Ezras & Nellie Tellalian, Dr. Jirayr & Louise Tezel, Rev. Edward S. Tovmassian (and several small funds with incomes under \$250). □

### HAIGAZIAN UNIVERSITY ACKNOWLEDGES NEW DONATIONS

After a stormy summer in Lebanon, and as the academic year 2006-2007 starts, President Paul Haidostian acknowledged with thanks a number of US grants received during the past month (Lincy Foundation USA, \$100,000; USAID Small Grants, Lebanon \$50,000; the Flora Family Foundation, USA \$10,000) to various programs of Haigazian University.

These grants came as a welcome addition to the regular financial support of the American Missionary Association of America, the Stephen Philibosian Foundation, the Conte Foundation, and the Common Global Ministries Board of the United Church of Christ & Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) USA.

Moreover, President Haidostian commended the scholarship programs of the Galouste Gulbenkian Foundation, and the Vatche & Tamar Manouguian Foundation which continuously support Armenian students through direct grants.

Despite all the aforementioned generous donations, President Haidostian expressed the country's economic hardships and the increasing financial needs of students and the university, as a consequence of the July-August war on Lebanon.



## The Good Shepherds in England

**E**dward and Lucy Janjigian are faithful ambassadors of the Armenian Missionary Association of America. During a recent trip to England they visited the church of the Good Shepherd and spoke about the AMAA and its ministries around the world. The Church was motivated to donate 750 English Pounds to support needy children in Armenia.



*Edward & Lucy Janjigian addressing the Church. The Minister of the Church, confined to the wheelchair, is holding the check. (above)*

Through the efforts of Rev. Michael and Anahid Thomas (Lucy's sister), who are members of the Good Shepherd Church, many knitted items were donated for Children in Armenia and Karabagh.

The members of the Good Shepherd church lived up their name as *good shepherds*.

*Mrs. Anahid Thomas displaying some of the knitted items for children in Armenia & Karabagh. (left)*



## Spiritual Corner

### What will you do with my dollar?

John 6:1-14

**Dikran Youmshakian**

Dennis the Menace while shaking the pastor's hand after church service asks, "Preacher, what are you going to do with that dollar my dad gave?"

This is a question perhaps we all ask when we give to charity. It is always good to witness and learn what difference our gifts make.

Thanks to the generosity of caring friends and faithful members the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) was able to raise over two million dollars last fiscal year, and these along with the income from its endowment funds, were used to support 140 projects around the world including 33 mission projects supporting Churches; 45 projects supporting Evangelism; 30 Education programs; and 32 relief programs in 22 countries. Your dollars fed the hungry, clothed the naked, provided medical care to the sick, supported needy children, gave hope to the hopeless, and most of all helped preach the Gospel to all nations as Jesus commanded.

When we give in faith, trust, and most of all, cheerfully, God honors our giving and it will be effective. We all remember the young boy who gave his five loaves of bread and two fish to the disciples on the mount. He had faith in Jesus, he trusted Jesus and most of all he did not cry over his need to give up his bread and fish, and instead he cheerfully watched 5000 people being fed. What a great experience and what a wonderful feeling of joy this was for him. It changed his life.

The AMAA is grateful to God for every dollar given for missionary work, whether through the Churches, through Missions Committees, or directly through the AMAA, and appreciates your cheerful partnership in its mission and service ministry. Thank you.

## **HUMANITARIAN AID SHIPMENT TO ARMENIA**

The Armenian Missionary Association (AMA) of Australia has been renowned for its humanitarian aid across the globe and recently worked in conjunction with the Armenian Evangelical Church of Sydney in preparing a substantial quantity of aid for the needy in Armenia.

The AMA-Australia and the Armenian Evangelical Church of Sydney, through the coordination of the Ladies Auxiliary, has put together a humanitarian aid package consisting of 100's of hand knitted woollen wraps, hand knitted hats, scarfs & gloves, quilts, blankets, clothing, wheelchairs and Bibles.

The Women's Society of the church has been actively contributing towards this cause since last year (2005), and as of August 2006 they have managed to compile a load large enough to be stored in a 33 cubic metre container which will be shipped at the end of this month.

The container will be sent to AMA-Armenia who will manage the distribution of the aid to the needy families of Armenia and Karapagh and ensure the full efficiency and effectiveness of the operation.

The Armenian Evangelical Church of Sydney has never conducted a project on a scale of this enormity and evidently the community was very willing to give up their time and effort for the first and hopefully not last large scale charitable work.

It is very pleasing to see a small community toil towards making a difference in a country that has experienced a rough history. Although many will look upon this project and proclaim the fact that the subsequent result of the aid effort will be minimal in a country who needs so much more, we must not deny the fact that any aid with the right approach must be acknowledged as a *limited* however valuable venture.

The Lord our God accepts every individual as who they are. The Shepherd went out to look for one sheep, leaving behind the other ninety-nine. The analogy is clear. If one blanket is sent out to one needy Armenian, although there are still another ninety-nine in need, God still cares and will provide for every single person in need using the generosity of those individuals who are willing to give, in their own ability with a Christian spirit. □





## SUMMER CAMPS

### *Seventh Year of Camp Arevelk is a Veritable Success*



**C**amp Arevelk, the Eastern Region camp ministry of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) held its 7th annual week-long summer camp under the capable leadership of Camp Registrar David Shahbazian and Camp Director Sylvia Jizmejian during the week of August 13-19, 2006. The AEUNA and the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) fund this important ministry for the glory of God, the benefit of the church, and the future of our youth. The goal of the ministry is to develop young Armenians for leadership in the Church.

This year was an exciting one as new activities and new ministries were introduced. A record number of youth and staff were in attendance. The camp was started in 2000 with 17 campers and 6 staff. In 2006 there were 84 campers and staff members. With these larger numbers, there are now two groups of campers at Camp Arevelk - the 10-15 year old group and the 16-17 year old group.

During the week, the campers participate in numerous outdoor activities (hiking, swimming, tennis, basketball, volleyball, field games and various other team games) against the backdrop of the beautiful Catskill Mountains. This facility is a significant upgrade from the Boy Scout Camp where Camp Arevelk was held for the first 5 years.

The games and activities are an integral part of the Camp. However, the heart of the camp is not in the games but in relationships: relationships with God and relationships with each other. It is also in the Bible studies and sessions.

The topic this year was "Relationships." The main speakers, Rev. Ara Heghinian and Marla Collins, outlined ways that young people can relate to God, each other, themselves and the world. Heather Ohaneson, one of the Bible teachers, taught on the relationships found in the book of Ruth while Rev. Ara Jizmejian spoke to the older campers on the book of James. The young people interacted with their counselors, their teachers, the Bible and each other.

This year the camp introduced several new activities. Every day campers were treated to either an Armenian History class or a class on Armenian dancing. On Friday there was the inaugural "Camp Arevelk's Got Talent." The young people put on a talent show of epic proportions followed by a campfire. Saturday was a clean up and picnic day. As always, this event was a huge success

as approximately 175 campers, staff, and family members were served. After the picnic, everyone headed home to begin the countdown until Camp Arevelk 2007.

The camp staff is most grateful for the campers, families, churches, the AMAA, and the AEUNA, all of whom support this ministry. The camp staff also asks for your continued prayer and support of the campers, counselors and leaders as they continue to develop Camp Arevelk for the glory of God and the benefit of His body, the church. □

### *CE Union Summer Camps, Syria - 2006*



**T**he Summer Camp site of the Armenian Evangelical Christian Endeavor Union - KCHAG - was established in 1968 in Kessab, Syria. This summer it has hosted up to 14 groups who had come from different regions of Syria. In addition to Armenian Evangelical groups, the Center hosted groups from Armenian orthodox and Arab evangelical churches as well as participants for the Children summer camps of the Jinishian Memorial Program.

During this summer, the Christian Endeavour Union (*Chanitz*) organized three camps; for children, junior high and youth.

More than 80 children participated in the children's camp, during the days of July 10-17, 2006. Mrs. Maral Haidostian was the guest speaker. The participants enjoyed both the theme - Abundant Life - and the magnificent nature of Kessab.

The junior highs were also in attendance with the blessings of the Lord from the 23-30 of August, 2006. Pastor Datev Basmajian brilliantly captured the thoughts and the attention of the 45 participant teenagers with the theme - Swimming against the tide.

And finally some 60 youth came together from Aug. 30 - Sept. 3 to enjoy the Lord's blessings. Rev. Krikor Khayiguian of Valance, France was the camp's guest speaker. His topic was Fruits of the Spirit. His sermons and thoughts enriched the camp and the spiritual experiences of the participants.

We thank God for all these blessings and thoroughly acknowledge AMAA's financial support to Christian Endeavour's ministries in Syria. □

## Կոչ Սփիւռֆահայերուն՝ Լուսանկար եւ Խիղճ

«Որովհետեւ այս իմ եղբայրներուս ամենէն պզտիկներէն մէկուն ըրիք, ինծի ըրիք:»  
Մատթ. 25. 40



Վազգէն

Սիրելի ընթերցող, կը խնդրեմ որ ուշադրութեամբ դիտես Այս լուսանկարները: Անոնք կը ներկայացնեն փունջ մը հայ մանուկներ Արցախէն ու Հայաստանէն:

Առաջին լուսանկարը Վազգէն Ասատեանն է: Ան ծնած է Երեւան, 1992-ին, Ընտանիքը փոխադրուած է Ղարաբաղ: Ան ունի բոլոր մը եւ եղբայր մը: Վազգէնի հայրը գոհուած է Արցախի ազատամարտին: Մայրը ջնջին աշխատավարձով կը գործէ եւ անկարող առանձին իր եկամուտով հոգալու իր երեք որբ զաւակներուն:

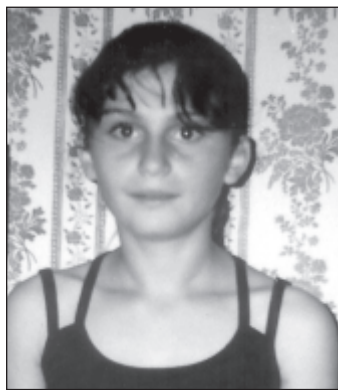
Երկրորդ լուսանկարը՝ Արմինէ Աբրահամեանն է: Ան ծնած է Ղարաբաղ 1991-ին: Ունի բոլոր մը եւ եղբայր մը: Արմինէին ալ հայրը գոհուած է Արցախի ազատամարտի պատերազմին: Մայրը առանձին իր աշխատանքով դժուար թէ կարենայ հոգալ իր զաւակներուն: Անոնք կ'ապրին երկու սենեկանոց խրճիթի մը մէջ որ բաղնիք իսկ չունի:

Երրորդ լուսանկարը՝ Տաթևիկ Մելիքյանն է: Տաթևիկ ծնած է Կիւմրի 1996-ին: Ունի իրմէ փոքր բոլոր մը եւ եղբայր մը: Հայրը գիրենք ձգած ու գացած է: Մայրը անգործ է: Կ'ապրին մէկ սենեկանոց խոնաւ վարձու տան մը մէջ առանց կահ կառասի:

Վերոյիշեալ դժբախտ հայ մանուկները Հայ Աւետարանական Ընկերակցութեան նպաստընկալ հազարաւոր որբերէն են: Անոնց ընտանիքի անդամները սեղանին վրայ ուտելիք հաց ունին շնորհիւ ծանօթ եւ



Տաթևիկ



Արմինէ

անծանօթ բարերարներու նիւթական օգնութեան: Այս մանուկներուն եւ իրենց բախտակիցներուն լաւատեսութիւնը՝ -գոնէ այժմ,- կախեալ է նիւթապէս կարող անձերու բարեացակամութենէն: Եթէ մենք մեր գութի դռները փակենք այս մանուկներուն դիմաց, անոնք պիտի դառնան անմխիթար, պիտի դառնան «Մանկութիւն չունեցող մարդիկ»:

Նիկոլ Աղբալեան ըսած է. «Հայութիւնը կը նմանի սառցակոյտի մը-Ամերիկա 30 թօն, Եւրոպա՝ 20, Սուրիա-Լիբանան՝ 50: Բոլորն ալ հալելու դատապարտուած են: Միակ վայրը ուր հայը հայ կրնայ մնալ՝ Հայաստանն է»: Իսկ այսօր, սիրելի՛ ընթերցող, Հայաստանի հայութիւնն է որ կը հալի... մէկ ու կէս միլիոն արտագաղթ...:

Margaret T. Bailey, Ph.D. Point Loma, San Diego Nazarene Համալսարանի փրոֆէսորներէն մին, յետ Հայաստան այցելութեան, այսպէս կը գրէ իր յուշերուն մէջ. «Մենք մեր կոնակը չդարձնենք Հայաստանի հազարաւոր մանուկներու ողբերգութեան, չանտեսենք այս մանուկները, որոնք կը պայքարին իրենց գոյատեւման համար, այլապէս անոնք շատ ետ պիտի մնան այս նոյն աշխարհին մէջ»: Այս խօսքերը ըսուած են օտարի մը կողմէ: Մեզի ի՞նչ ընել կ'իյնայ, ձեռնածալ նստիլ եւ դիտել: Եկէ՛ք հաւաքաբար թոյլ չտանք որ խաւարը յաղթէ լոյսին: Եկէ՛ք միասնաբար աշխատինք լուսաւորել Հայաստանի մանուկներուն ապագան: Յուսանք որ Հայաստանի հայութիւնը պիտի կարենայ յաղթահարել այս արտակարգ դժուարին պայմանները: Աստուածաշունչը կ'ըսէ, «Յոյսը ամօթով չի ձգեր». մէկ պայմանով, երբ խօսքի սահմանէն անցնինք՝ գործի:

«Եթէ եղբայր մը կամ բոլոր մը մերկ ըլլայ եւ կամ օրուան կերակուրին կարօտ ու ձեզմէ մէկը անոնց ըսէ, գացէ՛ք խաղաղութեամբ, տաքցէ՛ք ու կշտացէ՛ք, բայց մարմնին պէտք եղած բաները անոնց չտայ, ի՞նչ օգուտ ունի»: (Յակոբոս 2: 15, 16)

Ոմանք կրնան ըսել, թէ ողորմութիւնով Հայաստանը չի փրկուիր: Կան ուրիշներ, որոնք կը խորհին, թէ կարելի չէ փոխել Հայաստանի վիճակը: Սակայն ես կը կարծեմ, թէ երբ ամէն կողմ խաւար է, ամենէն տկար ելեւտրական լամբն իսկ իր օգուտը ունի: Մեզմէ իւրաքանչիւրը՝ որ ամիսը 20 տոլարով Հայաստանի օգնելու կարողութիւնը ունի, եթէ գործնականի անցնի, Աւստրալիայէն մինչեւ Միջին Արեւելք եւ Ամերիկա, այս սրբազան արարքով, քանի-քանի չճաւոր եւ անապաստան ընտանիքներ պիտի գոյատեւեն եւ մնան հայրենի հողին կառչած: Այս ծանր պայմանները



անպայման պիտի յաղթահարուին:

Եթե տարին մէկ ընտանիք պահելը ծանր պիտի ըլլայ մէկ անձի համար, երկու հայեր միանալով, եւ ամէն մէկը ամսական 10 տոլար վճարելով, կրնան այս սրբազան գործը գլուխ հանել հայրենիքէն ներս:

Երբ հանդիպինք նիւթապէս կարող հայերու, որոնք կը զլանան իրենց օգնութիւնը հայրենիքի իրապէս կարօտեալ եւ անկար ժողովուրդին, թերեւս պիտի ըսեն. «Ահաւասիկ ինձմէ հարուստ մը, նախ ի՞նք թող օգնէ»: Եթէ դուն շիտակը ընել գիտես՝ մի՛ սպասեր ուրիշին առնելիք ֆայլերուն: Հաշտուէ՛ թէ այդ ուրիշները անպարտաճանաչ հայեր են. դուն «Զարեմ մի՛ յաղթուիր, հապա բարիով յաղթէ չարին»: (Հոովմ. 12. 21)

Սիրելի՛ Սփիւռֆահայ, ոգնէ՛ Հայաստանի կարօտեալներուն կարողութեանդ չափով, անսալով խղճիդ, որպէսզի արժանի թոռը ըլլաս Վարդան Մամիկոնեանի: Գործէ այնպէս՝ որ կարենաս մասնիկ մը ունենալ մէջդ Վարդանէն որ գոհուեցաւ՝ «Ըսան Յիսուսի եւ վասն Հայրենեաց»...:

«Աղը աղէկ է, բայց եթէ աղը անհամանայ, ինչո՞վ պիտի համովցնէք. ձեր անձին մէջ աղ ունեցէ՛ք»: (Մարկ. 9. 49)

«Մենք որ զօրաւոր ենք, պէտք է մեզի, տկարներուն տկարութիւնը վերցնենք, ոչ միայն մեր անձին հանդը ըլլալու համար»: Հոովմ. 15. 1

Բանակին մէջ հրամանատարը կը հրամայէ եւ

գինուորները կը հնազանդին անոր: Այս պարագային ո՞վ պիտի տայ «հրամանը», եւ որո՞նք պիտի վառեն իրենց «լամբերը»...: Պիտի վառեն բոլոր անոնք՝ որոնք կը հաւատան, թէ կ'արժէ ՀԱՅ մնալ, բոլոր անոնք՝ որոնք կը հաւատան թը ԼՈՒՍԱՒՈՐԻԶԻ ԿԱՆԹԵՂԸ պէտք է ամար մնայ...: Եւ տակաւին, բոլոր անոնք՝ որոնք անտարբեր՝ կը վերջիշեն ու մասունքի պէս կը պահեն մէկ ու կէս միլիոն նահատակներուն ԿՏԱԿԸ:

Սիրելի Հայրենակից, եթէ որոշած ես որքի մը կամ չֆաւոր ընտանիքի մը տարեկան ծախսը հոգալով ազատել զանոնք նիւթապէսեւ բարոյապէս, առաքէ՛ 250 տոլարի գումարդ հետեւեալ հասցէին.

**AMAA - Orphan & Child Care Program**

**31 W. Century Road**

**Paramus, NJ 07652**

**USA**

Սիրելի ընթերցող, անգամ մը եւս դիտէ այս լուսանկարները, եւ ձեռք դի՛ր խղճիդ վրայ:

Կանխայայտ շնորհակալութիւններով եւ սիրով՝

**Տօք. Լեւոն Զէնեան**

**Լաթաֆիա, Սուրիա**

*Ծանոթ.՝ Տօք. Լեւոն Զէնեանի այս գրութիւնը մարտահրաւեր մըն է բոլոր հայերուն: Տօք. Զէնեան ինք իր համեստ միջոցներով կը հովանաւորէ 225 հայ երեխաներ եւ կը հոգայ անոնց ընտանիքներուն:*

## Մերտիներան Հայ Աւետարանական Վարարանի Վերամուտը

25 տարիներ առաջ, հայ դպրոցի եւ ֆրիստոնէական դաստիարակութեան հաւատացող խումբ մը նուիրեալներ, Արեւմտեան Միացեալ Նահանգներու այս հեռաւոր փերուն վրայ հիմը դրին առաջին Հայ Աւետարանական ամենօրեայ վարժարանին, եւ զայն, բարերարուի՛ Օրդ. Էլիզ Մերտիներանի անունով կոչեցին:

Սեպտեմբեր 7, 2006-ին, 25-րդ անգամ ըլլալով, Մերտիներան Վարժարանը բացաւ իր դռները, խանդավառ աշակերտներու, ծնողներու, ուսուցիչներու եւ հոգաբարձութեան կազմի անդամներու ներկայութեան:

Զանգին հետ աշակերտները, մանկապարտէզէն մինչեւ ութերորդ կարգ, բակին մէջ բարձրաձայն արտասանեցին՝ «Հայ եմ ես... Ամբողջ սրտով պիտի սիրեմ Հայրենիքս ու եկեղեցիս, միշտ պիտի խօսիմ Հայերէն...» դրօշակի արարողութիւն կատարելու ընթացքին: Ապա, վարժարանի սրահին մէջ տեղի ունեցաւ բացման պաշտօնական հանդիսութիւնը, որուն ընթացքին խօսք առին Վեր. Յովսէփ Մաթոսեան՝ Հիւսիսային Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանական Միութեան Հովիւը, Տօք. Հրայր Աթիքեան՝ Հոգաբարձութեան ատենապետը եւ Պրն. Յովսէփ Իննէնիքեան՝ դպրոցի Տնօրէնը:

Նախամանկապարտէզի բաժինին համար, եւս, վերամուտի բացման հանդիսութիւնը տեղի ունեցաւ նոյն օրը, վարժարանի սրահին մէջ, ծնողներու



ներկայութեամբ: Հոն, եւս, տնօրէնը ողջոյնի ու բարի գալուստի խօսքերով ելոյթ ունեցաւ:

Մերտիներան Վարժարանը կը գտնուի Շրքմըն Օֆիս մէջ, 13330 Բիվըրսայտ Տրայվի վրայ, հեռ. 818.907.8149: Ունի նախամանկապարտէզի, մանկա-պարտէզի, նախակրթարանի եւ միջնակարգի բաժիններ:

25-ամեակի նուիրուած ձեռնարկներու մասին տեղեկութիւններ պիտի տրուին յետագային: □

***The Board of Directors  
of the  
Armenian Missionary  
Association of America  
(AMAA)  
with profound sorrow an-  
nounces the passing of  
Rev. Dr. Giragos Chopourian,  
Executive Director Emeritus  
of AMAA.  
Rev. Chopourian went to be  
with the Lord on  
Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2006.  
He was 92 years old.***

The AMAA Board of Directors and staff wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends whose names were submitted to us for publication in the AMAA News

- \* **Annette Baronian**  
Coral Springs, FL
  - \* **Haig Dadourian**  
New York, NY
  - \* **Zabelle Goolkasian**  
Belmont, MA
  - Benjamin Gulleyan**  
Zahleh, Lebanon
  - Zaven Hadidian**  
Bakersfield, CA
  - George C. Hamparson**  
Fresno, CA
  - Ruth Luka Hewett**  
Los Angeles, CA
  - Araksi Ishkhanian**  
Sydney, Australia
  - \* **Marguerite Madenjian**  
Arlington, MA
- \* Memorials designated for AMAA

## John Conte

John Conte, whose acting career took him from radio and television to Broadway and feature films before he went behind the cameras as the founder and owner of KMIR-TV in Palm Desert, CA, died Sept. 4. He was 90 years old.



"John Conte was a dear friend and an entertainment legend," Representative Mary Bono, Republican of California, said in a statement last week. She called Mr. Conte "a television pioneer" and commended his philanthropy.

He was a founding sponsor of Eisenhower Medical Center and helped create the McCallum Theatre in Palm Desert, along with several educational centers.

John Conte was born in Palmer, Mass., on Sept. 15, 1915, and was a teenager when he moved to Los Angeles with his family. He graduated from Lincoln High School and got his start singing and acting on radio. In the 1940s he was a cast member on "The George Burns and Gracie Allen Show."

In 1947 Mr. Conte appeared in "Allegro," a Broadway musical by Rodgers and Hammerstein. He also was in the cast of "Arms and the Girl," a musical scored by Morton Gould, in 1950.

He moved into television, appearing on "Your Show of Shows" with Sid Caesar in the early '50s. He was host of the "Matinee Theatre," a daily one-hour drama series, through the late 1950s. In the 1960s he had guest roles on several popular TV dramas, including "Perry Mason" and "Bonanza."

Mr. Conte phased out his acting career in the 1960s. He and his wife, Sirpuhe Philibosian, launched KMIR, an NBC affiliate, in 1968. They built it into the third-largest station in California's Coachella Valley before selling it to Journal Communications of Milwaukee in 1999.

John and his wife Sirpuhe Philibosian Conte have been generous supporters of the many projects of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, including Haigazian University, refurbishing schools, providing scholarships in Lebanon and generously contributing towards Orphan and Child care programs in Armenia.

In addition to his wife, Sirpuhe Philibosian, he leaves his son, Christopher of Los Angeles; stepdaughters Louise Danelian of Los Angeles and Joyce Stein of Indian Wells; and six grandchildren. □

## Genevieve Roubian

Genevieve Yevnige Roubian Jingosian (Mangurian) was born on October 4, 1912, in Casaba, Turkey, the daughter of Harutoun Jin-gosian and Vosgi Piryan. Because of the circumstances surround-



ing the Armenian genocide she was brought to the United States by her father's family when she was seven years old and raised by her aunt, Anahid Jingosian, and her husband Dr. Armen Stephen Mangurian in Manchester, New Hampshire, where she graduated from high school. She attended the University of New Hampshire in Durham and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in European History. She married Dr. Vahe Stephen Roubian on November 11, 1944. From this marriage she bore three sons, Armen Stephen Roubian of Rome, New York, Robert Vahe Roubian of Brooklyn, New York, and Paul Arthur Roubian of New Hartford, New York. She lived most of her adult life in Manhasset, New York, where she raised her family and where she was a significant contributor of both her time and resources to that community.

An important aspect of Genevieve's life was charitable giving, caring for the less fortunate. She avidly supported many causes within the Armenian community, including the AMAA sponsorship program for the children of Armenia, many of whom were orphaned as the result of the 1988 earthquake in that country. She was deeply involved and committed to the Knights and Daughters of Vartan. In addition she supported and contributed to her local chapter of the Armenian General Benevolent Union, the Armenian Evangelical Church, and the Congregational Church of Manhasset. She was a dedicated wife to her husband Vahe Stephen Roubian.

In February of this year, Genevieve moved to New Hartford, New York, to live with her youngest son Paul and his family, a move necessitated by a recent debilitating illness. She passed away peacefully surrounded by her family at 6 AM on Sept. 2, 2006. She was predeceased by her husband Vahe in July of 1984. She is survived by her son Armen and his wife Cynthia Allan Roubian and their two daughters Susan Lynne Roubian and Cheryl Joy Roubian, her son Robert, and her son Paul and his wife Noreen Keenan Roubian and their three children, Deborah Ann Roubian, Daniel Paul Roubian, and Joan Marie Roubian, and by her sister Siran Gazelloglu. She will be greatly missed. □



## Hovsep Der-Karabetian

Hovsep Der-Karabetian was born in 1920 in Izmyr to Hagop and Noemie (Najarian) Der-Karabetian who miraculously survived the 1915 genocide. He lived in Athens, Greece with his family until 1929 when they moved briefly to Beirut, Lebanon, and then to Aleppo, Syria where he graduated from the 6th grade of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel School. He was good in school and wished to continue his education at the Aleppo College. However, he could not fulfill his wish because of his family's poverty.



Soon after, they moved back to Beirut, where he took up work as a shoemaker until he was 27 years old. Then, in 1947 he changed his line of work to nursing and worked at CMC Hospital for 28 years. After the closure of the CMC during the Lebanese civil war he continued to work as a nurse in various hospitals and cared for patients at their homes. He finished his nursing career by working at the Center for Armenian Handicapped in Lebanon (CAHL) until he retired in 1993.

He married Lea Jinbashian in 1947 and was blessed with two children: His son Hagop, who now lives in California, and his daughter Noemie who has settled in the Philippines.

Early in his life Hovsep accepted Jesus as his personal savior, and in 1960 became a committed member of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Ashrafia. He was a Deacon of the Church and served the Lord in that capacity until he moved to the United States in 1993. He worked with a number of pastors conducting Sunday and mid-week services in the pastor's absence and on many occasions accompanying the pastor for visitations. He had a beautiful voice and a passion for singing, which was a self-cultivated talent with no formal training. He sang at church services quite regularly, and was in great demand at funerals and weddings.

After the move to the United States he lost his life's companion in 1997, and decided to move back to Beirut to live at CAHL where he did volunteer work for several years while his strength held up, cheering up residents and helping staff. His laughter and joy was contagious projecting hope and optimism. He progressively got weaker and passed away peacefully on August 7, 2006 from complications of heart problems. He will be remembered for his service, beautiful voice and positive outlook on life. □

## Nelly Haigazian Constantian

Nelly Haigazian Constantian, was born on March 4, 1909 in Konia, Asia Minor, one of six daughters of Dr. Armenag and Matilda Haigazian. Her father was a minister and a teacher at a boy's school in Konia. When the situation there became dangerous for Armenians in early 1921, Dr. Haigazian sent his wife and daughters to the USA where they had relatives. Despite the danger, he would not leave his students, and perished shortly thereafter.

Nelly arrived in the USA around her 12<sup>th</sup> birthday. The family settled in Troy, New York for five years. Matilda remembered that Dr. Haigazian had been in Pasadena and spoke of it as a beautiful place, so in 1926 Nelly's sisters and widowed mother moved to Pasadena. Nelly was a "Pioneer Bruin", attending UCLA (then the UC Southern Campus) for two years on Vermont Ave., then two more years at the brand new Westwood Campus. She graduated in 1932, majoring in Art.

Nelly met Avedis Constantian at a family gathering and they were married in 1936. Nelly and Avy moved to San Diego during the pre-World War II years, both working at Consolidated Vul tee Aircraft. Nelly was a loftier, drafting aircraft components actual size, putting her art education to work. After the war, it was back to Pasadena where they raised their three children. Obtaining her Realtor's license, she sold real estate with Eria Imler in Pasadena for many years. She and Avy moved to Sierra Madre in 1964, and he predeceased her in 1989.

Nelly was an artist (drawing and sculpture), and an avid flower gardener. Her goal was to have a garden that was in bloom year round, and she succeeded. She loved keeping her mind active and took adult classes at PCC and Monrovia High School well into her 80's, until diminishing eyesight due to macular degeneration made it impossible to continue. She passed away peacefully in her home June 29, 2006 at the age of 97. She was laid to rest at Mountain View Cemetery in Altadena. She is survived by her sister Pansy Irish of Rancho Bernado, CA; daughter Elizabeth Constantian of St. David, AZ; daughter Linda Roselund of South San Gabriel, CA; son James Constantian of Monrovia, CA; granddaughter Jennifer Roselund of Santa Cruz, CA; grandson Andrew Roselund of Seoul, Korea; and many nieces and nephews. In her memory, donations may be given to Haigazian University in Beirut, Lebanon, through the AMAA, 31W. Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652. □

## George C. Hamparson Sr.

George C. Hamparson Sr. passed away on Friday, December 30, 2005 at St. Agnes Hospital in Fresno, CA, at the age of 81.



Born in Revere, MA, April 24, 1924, after which the family moved to Fresno, CA, where George graduated from Fresno High School in 1942, in the top ten of a class of 350. During this time he was an active member of the Fresno High Senate, Fresno High Engineers Club, and was granted a lifetime membership to the California Scholarship Federation.

George graduated Fresno State College in 1947, with a Bachelors of Science degree in Physics and Chemistry. During this time he was enlisted in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He was also licensed as a Professional Engineer by the State of California since November of 1975.

Immediately following his graduation in 1947, George was hired as an Engineering Inspector at The Twining Laboratories, Inc. In 1960, he was promoted to Vice President and General Manager, and was also made a member of the Board of Directors. In 1976, he took over the company as a President and Owner. In March of 1992, he retired and sold The Twining Laboratories, Inc. after 45 years of loyal service.

In 1997, George was awarded the CSUF Alumni Association Award of Excellence. He also received a CSUF Engineering Department Outstanding Industry Support Award in 1993, and was appointed to Dr. Welty's Industry Roundtable Council in 1992.

Son of George S. and Florence Hamparson, George is survived by Anita, his beloved wife of 40 years; sister, Elaine Hamparson; son, George C. Hamparson II; daughter in law, Verda Hamparson; and grandson, G Crosby Hamparson III.

George was an outstanding individual, always there for his family and those in need. He gave unselfishly to the community by way of donations and service, and led an exemplary life holding steadfast to his high moral standards. □



**AMAA Armenia Summer Camp/Christmas Committee**  
Invites you to celebrate  
**Christmas in October**  
and provide Christmas Joy Packages  
To children in  
Armenia, Karabagh & Georgia



*Yes, I would like to provide a blessed Christmas season for orphans and needy children in Armenia, Karabagh & Georgia.*

Enclosed is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

for \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas Joy Packages. (\$10 Each)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make tax-deductible checks payable to AMAA – earmarked for clothing)

To make a contribution with a credit/debit card or electronic debit to checking account, please call the AMAA office at 201.265.2607.



*Each Christmas Joy Package costs \$ 10.00. Please sponsor as many packages as you can and mail your donations to the Armenian Missionary Association of America, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652. Thank you for your continued support!*

**Armenian Missionary Association of America**  
31 West Century Road  
Paramus, NJ 07652

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